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WDT

29 January 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCHRIEVER, WDG
GENERAL RITLAND, WDGV

SUBJECT: Use of 315 Boosters

1. Now that we have progressed to the point of identifying the ABLE program, a possible IC program, a possible "Hit the Moon" program, and use of a THOR booster within the 117L program, it is necessary to face up to the realities of the 315 delivery schedules.

2. We can cross off the ABLE program with a statement that the first three missiles available have already been assigned. We can assume that the three missiles needed in 58 for the 117L program possibly could be reduced to two and that would take care of the next two deliveries in FY 58 available for extra curricular work. We could next assume that the 4th, 5th and 6th missiles delivered in August, September and October could be applied to "Hit the Moon" which, in effect, would further the ICBM program. If we make this allocation, we will not be able to further test the IC until the beginning of calendar '59 at which time additional missiles will become available from increased production. Unless directed otherwise therefore I propose the following utilization of THOR boosters:

Missiles	
1) 2) 3)	Project ABLE
4) 5) 6)	"Hit the Moon" with secondary benefit of furthering IC testing
7) 8) 9) 10)	Allocation to 117L with the possibility that the 6th may be used in the "Hit the Moon" project

If with understanding that 6th will be used against 117L. we order test of Thor will be

-CHARLES H. TERHUNE, JR.
Colonel, USAF
Deputy Commander
Weapon Systems

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

Copy furnished:
Lt Col Jacobson
Dr. Mettler, R-W

[redacted]

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WDT 58-6